

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079478

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079478

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJ: ARMENIANS: CONVERSATION WITH COUNSELOR OF

FRENCH EMBASSY

REF: STATE 78620 (NOTAL)

1. BERNARD LOPINOT, COUNSELOR OF FRENCH EMBASSY, CALLED ON
NEA/ TUR DIRECTOR DILLON APRIL 26 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS
ARMENIAN PROBLEM. ACCORDING LOPINOT GOT PUTTING PRESSURE
ON GOF RE ARMENIAN ACTIVITY. AT ONE POINT TURK FOREIGN
MINISTRY HAD GONE SO FAR AS TO HINT AT " POPULAR ACTION"
AGAINST FRENCH MONUMENT AT GALLIPOLI. SITUATION HAD HAD
ADVERSE AFFECT ON TURK- FRENCH RELATIONS, E. G. TURKS HAD
WITHDRAWN AMBASSADOR. IN MAKING RECENT DEMARCHE RE
HANDLING OF ARMENIAN ACTIVITIES GOT HAD CITED " STRONG
MEASURES" USG TAKING. LOPINOT WISHED TO KNOW WHAT WE WERE
DOING.

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PAGE 02 STATE 079478

2. DILLON DIVIDED PROBLEM INTO TWO PARTS SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS OVERLAP GOT HAD TWO CONCERNS: PROTECTION OF OFFICIALS, AND ARMENIAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. USG HAD ACTED VIGOROUSLY AS REGARDS THE PROTECTION PROBLEM. DILLON THEN DESCRIBED VARIOUS MEASURES, SOME POSSIBLE FOR FIRST TIME UNDER NEW FEDERAL LAW, WHICH USG HAD TAKEN IN RECENT WEEKS (REFTEL). HE NOTED THAT ULTIMATELY MUCH DEPENDED ON ATTITUDE AND RESOURCES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

IN A PARTICULAR INSTANCE, AND WE WERE REASONABLY WELL SATISFIED WITH RECENT RESPONSES OF LOCAL OFFICIALS, ALTHOUGH TURKS CONTINUED TO ASK FOR MORE PROTECTION.

3. TURNING TO SECOND PROBLEM, THAT OF ARMENIAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY, DILLON OBSERVED THERE WERE SEVERE LIMITATIONS ON WHAT USG COULD DO OR WHAT WAS PROPER TO DO. IT CLEAR GOT WOULD LIKE USG TO HALT ALL ARMENIAN DEMONSTRATIONS, AND INDEED OTHER ARMENIAN ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE HOSTILE OR OFFENSIVE TO CLOSE ALLY. THIS WE CLEARLY COULD NOT DO AS LONG AS LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES DID NOT DEGENERATE INTO HARASSMENT. IN THIS REGARD DILLON SAID THAT TURKS HAD TOLD US THAT GOF DOING MORE THAN USG BECAUSE IT PREVENTING ARMENIAN DEMONSTRATIONS.

4. LOPINOT SAID FRENCH POLICE HAD CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE IN ISSUING PERMITS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS, AND IT PROBABLE POLICE HAD NOT PERMITTED DEMONSTRATIONS THIS MARTYRS DAY. ON OTHER HAND, THERE HAD BEEN LARGE INDOOR MEETING OF ARMENIANS IN PARIS ON APRIL 24.

5. LOPINOT DESCRIBED LARGE VOLUME OF MAIL FRENCH EMBASSY RECEIVING FROM ARMENIAN- AMERICANS " SUPPORTING" IT IN ITS " DISPUTE" WITH TURKS. MUCH OF THIS MAIL SEEMED TO BE GENERATED BY BOSTON CHAPTER OF ARF (TASHNAKS). HE ALSO REMARKED THAT TURKS OBSESSED WITH MONUMENT INSCRIPTIONS, AND WERE CONVINCED THAT TURKEY THREATENED BY HIGHLY ORGANIZED WIDESPREAD ARMENIAN CONSPIRACY.

6. DILLON CONCLUDED CONVERSATION WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTION
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PAGE 03 STATE 079478

OF ARMENIAN ACTIVITIES IN LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK ON
APRIL 24 (SEPTTEL). ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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